

**COMMISSION ON TECHNOLOGY
e-COURT SUBCOMMITTEE
APPELLATE COURTS SUBTEAM
MEETING SUMMARY**

January 27, 2012
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

State Courts Building Room 415

**SUPREME COURT MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Justice Scott Bales
Clerk Rachelle Resnick
Staff Attorney Ellen Crowley

**APPEALS DIVISION ONE
MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chief Judge Larry Winthrop
Clerk Ruth Willingham
James Towner

**APPEALS DIVISION TWO MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Clerk Jeff Handler*

AOC STAFF & GUESTS

Stewart Bruner, *ITD*
Mary Foltz, *CSD*
Karl Heckart, *ITD*
Jim Price, *ITD*

* indicates appeared via telephone

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Karl Heckart chaired the meeting in place of Justice Hurwitz, who was unable to attend. Karl introduced Justice Scott Bales who described his role as being a learner and observer while Justice Hurwitz transitions between the Supreme Court and the federal bench.

AZTURBOCOURT STATUS AND VOLUME

Clerk Rachelle Resnick provided e-filing numbers from December and part of January. She highlighted the dramatic increase of filings over one year ago. Mary Foltz provided an update on the schedule for improvements being made to PayPal and shared an item of concern related to financial reconciliation. Mary also warned that any issue discovered during testing could affect the projected March 14 implementation date for the PayPal improvements. The clerks discussed continuing issues with attorneys selecting the correct case type and grasping what constitutes an initiating document in a case, leading to a high number of refunds as volume has increased. Jim Price shared that enhancements to the Central Case Index (CCI) will eventually address the problem for Division One.

PREPARATIONS FOR MANDATORY E-FILING

Letters and the administrative order have been issued in support of the February 1 and April 2 mandatory dates. Clerks' websites have also been updated. Mary updated the group on the progress of Court Services' training efforts. She described the target audiences and various media available to prospective filers. Justice Bales suggested she contact the ASU and U of A law schools to gauge their interest in hosting educational sessions.

Mary mentioned that she is hearing less pushback in training sessions about the application fee and that the list of law firms desiring to join a pilot is growing.

JUVENILE RULE 107 ISSUES

Ellen Crowley handed out proposed changes needed to conform the juvenile rules to changes in other rules made previously to support appellate e-filing. Stewart reminded members that those changes had been discussed in some detail at the time. No issues were raised with the current proposal. Karl asked about the number of filings being submitted with bookmarks now that the revised ACJA § 1-506 has taken effect. Judges said that not enough time has passed to see any impact. Mary was willing to add the topic into future training sessions for appellate e-filers. Justice Bales suggested that AOC could reach a wider audience by participating in the State Bar's Appellate Practice Institute in late April. Mary will contact Pam Peterson for details.

APPELLATE IT STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Stewart Bruner informed the group of COT's practice of soliciting plan updates from rural counties every other year and the fact that no updates had been made to the appellate plan for 3 years due to various disruptions while e-filing was getting underway. Justice Hurwitz referred him to this group to discuss the feasibility of submitting a plan this year. Stewart described his expectations for the effort: first obtaining business inputs from court leadership, staff attorneys, and clerks in a February meeting then collecting technology details in March. Members were amenable to the idea and will look for an invitation that includes a link to the most recent appellate plan.

OTHER UPDATES AND ISSUES

Jeff Handler complimented Rachelle on the smooth progress of the business changes related to direct filing of petitions for review.

WRAP UP

A follow-up meeting will be held once the Pay Pal changes enter the final test environment. Mary will notify Stewart of the scheduled date in February.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.